

## Arizona Silver Belt

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THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1903.

## Official Paper of Gila County.

March is a great old blusterer. It is well that it has St. Patrick's day to redeem it.

A trust buster rises to remark that the president's great trust hunt, in its outcome, has a resemblance to his Mississippi bear hunt.

It is almost always the case that the legislator whose worldly possessions are least is the most reckless in appropriating other people's money.

That is a curious rider which the immigration bill carries, by which the sale of liquor is forbidden in the capitol. This seems to be a confusing of irrigation and immigration.

President Eliot's criticism of the Young Men's Christian association, that they talk too much and do too little, applies with equal force to most other religious organizations of which we have any knowledge.

Spring is coming. There are signs of it in the skies and atmosphere as well as in the almanacs. The barbers of spring in arid Arizona are not numerous, but such as there are are unmistakably present, not omitting to mention spring poetry.

Assemblyman Roemer is as profligate in handling the people's money as was the strolling thespian who gave away principalities at night and begged a quarter with which to buy his breakfast next morning.

The custom has become so general along the border of painting everything red, that even the monuments marking the boundary between the United States and Mexico are receiving a double dose of that sanguinary color, of the deepest hue, and each of the two republics has sent one of its fiercest generals to see that the gory work is carried out. Wow!

A member of the present New Mexico legislature, whose ancestors were "thrown in" with the Gadsden purchase, in opening his maiden speech in the house said, "I am thankful to my friends who got me out of that house over there and got me into this house here." The place referred to as "that house over there" was the territorial penitentiary. Some of Arizona's statesmen should be thankful that with them the order is reversed and that they are still in the legislature.

In the absence of President Ives, on account of sickness, for several days last week, Judge A. H. Morehead, of Gila county, presided over the deliberations of the council with much dignity and tact, displaying a knowledge of parliamentary procedure that surprised those who thought to take advantage of his supposed inexperience. The people of Gila county have good reason to feel proud of their representatives in the Twenty-second legislature, Messrs. Morehead and Henry.

The bill to increase the Arizona ranger force, after being defeated in the house last Thursday, was reconsidered and passed by a vote of twelve to eleven on Friday. Our position on this matter, as already stated, is that the maintenance of the rangers by a territorial tax levy works an injustice to a majority of the counties which derive no direct benefit from the service of the rangers, who have accomplished little effective work except in two or three counties in the southeastern part of the territory. We have yet to hear any good reason advanced why nine or ten counties should be required to pay for police duty in three or four other counties, especially as these latter are among the most prosperous counties in Arizona and well able to maintain their own constabulary.

A representative of one of the largest copper interests in the world says: "The activity of copper is absolutely legitimate, and is based entirely upon the conditions of supply and demand. During 1902, 25 per cent. more copper was used than ever before. The supply is exhausted. That it has advanced

from 11 to 13 cents for lake copper within a little more than a year is not extraordinary. The marvelous development of electric work the world over, and particularly in the United States, is the cause. During last year 170,000,000 pounds of copper were used for wire in electrical appliances in this country."

Any doubt entertained as to the fate of the eight-hour bill was removed on Tuesday, when Governor Brodie attached his signature to the measure. The law, which applies only to mine employees working under ground, becomes operative June 3, 1903. It is useless to speculate on the effect of this law upon the interests involved. That will be determined by the attitude assumed toward it by employers, and by giving the law a fair test. We hope that the measure will prove in no respect detrimental to the growth of the mining industry, the outlook for which at the present time in Arizona is so favorable.

One of the encouraging indications for the copper boom is that the local shares, notwithstanding recent profit-taking, continue to command attention and interest among New York traders, which is an entirely new feature of the copper speculation, says the Journal for investors. Other stocks have their inroads for a day, the speculative pendulum swaying between the railroads and the industrials, but the copper list is still the center of attraction. Trading in these stocks has become so general that it is somewhat difficult to determine which of the smaller properties are the favorites. There simply seems to be a desire for copper, and the remarkable feature of the trading appears to be an absence of the over-zealous trader, whose speculative zeal appears to get the better of his judgment. There is also an unmistakable upward trend of prices, and the improvement seems to be permanent and enduring.

The special session and the defeat of the Aldrich financial bill is the price paid by the republican managers of the senate for their filibustering against the statehood bill. True, they succeeded in keeping the ambitious territories out of the union, but made a pretty costly investment. Senator Foraker is quoted as saying: "For the next ten years the democrats will not have to apologize for filibustering against a measure in the senate. During practically the entire session a filibuster has been maintained against the statehood bill. I warned my republican colleagues not to continue it, but they did not listen to me. They sowed the wind and now are reaping the whirlwind. Had the desires of the majority of the senate been heeded we could have enacted all necessary legislation. A filibuster by a minority against a majority is always wrong. It matters not by whom it is conducted."

It may be truthfully said that there is no one really interested in the welfare of Arizona but who feels a sense of gratification that the session of the Twenty-second legislature is drawing to a close, at the same time mingled with apprehension that in the few days of life yet remaining to it serious injury may be done to the good name and material interests of the territory. A great number of vicious bills have been passed by the house, which has demonstrated its utter incapacity to legislate for the best interests of the people, who must now look to the council to turn back the tide of corrupt and harmful legislation, and failing there to rely, as a dernier resort, upon the wisdom and uncompromising integrity of Governor Brodie, to place the flat of his disapproval upon every questionable measure coming into his hands. The attitude of determined opposition on the part of the council to many of the house measures is highly encouraging, and it is sincerely to be hoped that the council's dissent will extend to the outrageous appropriation bills, and those establishing new public institutions, for which there is no need whatever.

The British blue book on the Venezuela controversy reveals the fact that Great Britain and not Germany suggested the joint action against Venezuela, and that the action assume the form of a blockade. It has been represented hitherto that Germany took the initiative in these matters and cunningly inveigled Great Britain into supporting her. This, by the way, is the claim made by ministers in parliament last week.

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## Importance of the Lottery Decision

In the New York Herald's editorial on the supreme court decision which affirmed the power of congress to prohibit the sending of lottery tickets from one state to another by other means than the United States mails, it is also remarked that the court's ruling has an import and reach which far transcend the subject matter that gave rise to it. "The constitutional principle affirmed applies with equal force and directness to the regulation of trusts. If congress has the power to bar lottery traffic from interstate commerce, it has power to deal a like blow at trade monopoly. It may prevent one evil as well as the other from being spread over the country by means of interstate transportation. It may say to trust monopolists as it has said to lottery dealers, 'While you confine your operations in restraint of trade within state bounds you are beyond the reach of congress, but when you extend them across state lines and make them national you are subject to the law aimed against a national evil.' The affirmation of this principle by the supreme court not only removes doubt as to the constitutionality of existing anti-trust legislation, but concedes to congress power even to go further and enact a more effective law if found necessary."

A bill before the Massachusetts legislature provides that no shares or certificates of mining stock shall be sold in the state until the mining company has filed with the commissioner of corporations a sworn statement of its president, treasurer and secretary, showing the condition and location of its mines, with plans, the amount of work done, and the condition of its plant and machinery. A fine of \$100 is imposed for each violation, and of \$500 for a false oath. Some such law is needed in other eastern states, as well as in Massachusetts, to put a crimp in the promoters of fake mining companies, who are almost invariably eastern men who fatten upon the credulity of the eastern public, and to the serious detriment of the western mining districts in which their alleged mines are said to be located. Between the rogues and the simpletons in the eastern states, the west gets a hard deal.

It is estimated that the railroads will spend a larger sum on improvements and maintenance during 1903 than has ever been spent in any single year. During the fiscal year 1901, the railroads spent \$231,000,000 on maintenance of equipment. A conservative railroad official estimates that the railroads will spend this year at least \$275,000,000 on maintenance of way and structures and \$225,000,000 on maintenance of equipment. According to these estimates, the expenditures of the railroads on maintenance and improvements during 1903 will amount to at least \$500,000,000. It is interesting to note that, according to statistics at hand, the railroads of the country will lay more than 3,000,000 tons of rails during the current year.

The DC mining company expects soon to increase the capacity of their concentrating plant from 500 tons to about 800 tons. To find just the machine to adopt for treating the ore after it comes from the pits, several manufacturers of concentrators were given permission to install their machines for a trial run. Room was provided for the company and all were placed side by side. The machine at present in use in the concentrator is the Frue Vanner. The machines that were in operation for several days last week, under men skilled in handling them, who were sent here for this special work, are the "Standard," manufactured at Los Angeles; the "Overstrum," manufactured at Chicago; the "Wilby," manufactured at Denver, and the "Frue Vanner," manufactured at Chicago.—Morenci Standard.

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